

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain in the application. By this amendment, claims 3 and 5-11 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. The present application as originally filed supports these amendments. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 5-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention. By this amendment, the applicants have amended claims 5-11. The applicants believe that the amended claims 5-11 are in compliance with the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims Rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 4-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,459,260 to Bonin et al. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bonin et al. By this amendment, the applicants have amended claims 3 and 5-11 to more clearly define the invention. In view of the amendments and the following arguments, the applicants believe that the claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance.

The present invention is directed to a magnetic head and disk tester. One problem with the magnetic head and disk testers prior to the present invention is that, during the testing process, the magnetic head may crash into the spindle, which supports and rotates the disk, if errors occur in controlling the movement of the magnetic head. The present invention proposes a way to solve this problem.

The independent claims 1, 3, and 5 of the present application require that the tester includes a magnetic head support having a longitudinal axis and positioning means for moving the magnetic head support along two perpendicular motion axes X and Y, wherein the longitudinal axis of the magnetic head support and the X axis form a predetermined angle between 0 and 90 degrees. The advantage of the arrangement that the longitudinal axis and the X axis form a predetermined angle between 0 and 90 degrees is that when the magnetic head

traverses along a trajectory over the disk such that the skew angle changes over a range from $-\alpha$ to $+\alpha$, the movement of the head in one direction, for example, Y direction, can be limited, depending on the value of the predetermined angle. This prevents the head from crashing into the spindle.

The Bonin et al. patent is directed to a head suspension assembly for testing a slider. Bonin uses a slider tester, which is shown in FIG.5 and described in lines 27-43 in column 4, for supporting the head suspension assembly. As seen in FIG.5 and the corresponding part of the specification, the tester includes an "X" direction positioning mechanism and a "Y" direction positioning mechanism for positioning the head suspension assembly in X and Y directions. The structure of the slider tester is similar to the structure illustrated in FIG.2 (Prior Art) in the present application. The arrangement of the device disclosed in Bonin et al. does not have a magnetic head support with a longitudinal axis of the magnetic head support and the X axis forming a predetermined angle between 0 and 90 degrees, and thereby may cause the head to crash into the spindle. Bonin et al. did not identify the problem faced by engineers in the art and failed to address solutions to the problem. Accordingly, the Bonin et al. patent does not render the present invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 3, and 5 obvious.

Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1, claim 4 depends from independent claim 3, and claims 6-11 depend from independent claim 5. As discussed above, the independent claims 1, 3, and 5 should be considered patentable over Bonin et al., and therefore, the dependent claims 2, 4, and 6-11 also should be considered patentable over Bonin et al.

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Conclusion

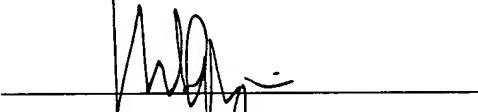
The applicants, accordingly, respectfully submit that in view of the preceding amendments and arguments, claims 1-11 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103(a). If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

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